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EAST TIMOR NEWS AGENCY
fourth floor, 232 Castlereagh St.,Sydney NSW-2000 (phone: 617089) February 22

PRESS RELEASE PRODUCTION IN LIBERATED AREAS "HIGHLY EFFICIENT" LAST YEAR

SYDNEY (ETNA) : "This year agricultural production was highly efficient, because the people worked hard in production, while the enemy is killing the captured population with starvation and diseases," Mr Alarico Fernandes, Minister for Information and National Security in the Democratic Republic of East Timor, said over Radio Maubere from inside East Timor on February 20.

"The enemy is caching (hiding) in the villages only controlling the houses, buildings and surrounds," Mr Fernandes continued." All the rest are under Fretilin forces control ."

This is one of the first confirmations that food production in the liberated areas of East Timor is duffiient and that it is in the Indonesian concentration camps that the Timorese are starving.

PRESS RELEASE WOMAN TELLS OF DAUGHTER'S DEATH AFTER RAPE BY INDONESIAN OFFICIAL

SYDNEY (ETNA) : Mr Alarico Fernandes, Minister for Information and National Security reported over Radio Maubere from inside East Timor on February 20, that a woman, Bessi Lawun had escaped from the Indonesian concentration camp in Suai , on the south coast near the border.

She told Fretilin members that her daughter, Maria Beatriz Lawun, had died on February 13, "because she had been brutally violated by an Indonesian official."

Mr Fernandes said many of the captured population had escaped from the concentration camp at Suai and nearby Tilomar.

Mr Fernandes also said that in Ainaro, south of Dili, there is very much discontent among the Indonesian soldiers,whose morale is low.

"Immorality is publicly carried out by Indonesian soldiers (in Ainaro),such as forcing the young to sexually satisfy them and forcing the population to shout 'the horses sexual act'," Mr Fernandes said.

PRESS RELEASE : INDONESIANS FORCED TO LEAVE DAROLETE (see East Timor News,No1)

Following the heavy Indonesian casualties in taking the small village of Darolete, Mr Fernandes reported on Radio Maubere (February 20) that the enemy had been "shamefully forced to leave Darolete,leaving war materials behind."

In other military reports,Mr Fernandes said that near Baguia village from January 23 to 31 in fierce fighting ,72 Indonesians had been killed.In Uatocarabou, to the south of Baguia, Indonesian soldiers in the new and old colonial residences heavily shelled the village outskirts.

In Lospalos, on February 4, an enemy military unit tried to advance over Lautem, but many were wounded and 25 killed. The area is being heavily shelled.

On the road from Suai to Zumalai , on February 10, over 10 Indonesians were killed,and they had to use heavy artillery. The border village of Covalima and several areas were heavily shelled from the Indonesian bordder village of Lakamaras from February 1 to 10,but no damage was done. In the same period, the Bobonaro area was heavily shelled by air,land and sea but no serious damage occurred In the north-west coast village of Maubara from Jan 13 to Feb 1 in a four clashes, 8 Indonesians were killed.

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PRESS RELEASE

GOVERNMENT GIVES CREDENCE TO
INDONESIAN CLAIMS OF "FRETILIN MASSACRES"

SYDNEY (ETNA) : The statement yesterday by Senator Withers, Government Minister for Administrative Services, that the Government was "just as concerned about allegations of atrocities in East Timor by Fretilin forces as it was about allegations against Indonesian troops" was a hypocritical attempt to divert attention from Indonesian atrocities, Mr Denis Freney, secretary of the Campaign for Independent East Timor (Sydney), said today.

Senator Withers, quoting a statement released by Foreign Minister Peacock referred to an Indonesian Government booklet "Massacre in East Timor". This booklet, which was circulated in April 1976 purports to show mass graves in Aileu and Same where Fretilin massacred pro-Indonesian Timorese.

However, a close examination of the booklet shows these graves are, in fact, those of Fretilin supporters massacred by the Indonesians when they took these towns.

A blow-up of a photo contained in the booklet, which purports to show "documents and other possessions of the victims (which) have also been found among the corpses", shows that among these is a Fretilin badge !

The badges, produced by the Campaign for Independent East Timor, and given as a gift to Fretilin before the invasion, were a death warrant if found on someone by the Indonesians, Mr Freney said.

The mass graves were dug up in the presence of Indonesian Red Cross and pro-Indonesian Timorese, but no independent observer was present, or has seen any of the documents supposedly found, he said. It is an operation that would have been proudly done by Goebbels, Mr Freney concluded.

The attempt to rake-up this fabrication to take the sting out of the very well-documented allegations by Mr Jim Dunn and others shows how desperate the Government is to protect their friends.

"We call for an official, public inquiry, including into these Indonesian fabrications. We would only be too happy to expose anything they bring up," Mr Freney said.

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THE FIRST ISSUE OF EAST TIMOR NEWS IS BEING POSTED TO A VERY LARGE NUMBER OF ADDRESSES WHICH MAY FIND IT OF INTEREST.

IF YOU WISH TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE EAST TIMOR NEWS PLEASE LET US KNOW. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO SUBSCRIBE WE MAY BE PREPARED TO CONTINUE TO SEND IT IF YOU FIND IT OF USE. HOWEVER WE WILL NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU, PARTICULARLY FROM OVERSEAS ADDRESSES. OVERSEAS ADDRESSES SHOULD ALSO INFORM US IF IT IS NECESSARY TO RECEIVE EAST TIMOR NEWS BY AIRMAIL. (This does not apply to East Timor support groups overseas, or addresses which have been regularly receiving East Timor news before.)